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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Congregational nurses trained, ready

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Ask ten people what they think of congregational nursing, and they'll probably return ten blank stares. Not so with Barry Click, director of Samaritan Counseling Services at Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc.

"About 25 years ago, a pilot program was funded in Chicago by the Kellogg Foundation on the premise that churches with nurses were best suited to provide leadership in the areas of preventative medicine and preventive health care education. The results were so positive that the plan has been widely adopted and adapted on the conceptual framework for Congregational Health Ministry practices.

"A church-based health ministry program indicates the interest and intent of a church in reclaiming its role in health and healing," Click said.

Click believes churches have a crucial responsibility in the health and physical well-being of its members. "For many centuries, the church played a major role in health care as well as spiritual care. With the growth of medical centers, government entitlements, and insurance programs — as well as health care as an industry — many churches relinquished their role in the arena of health care," Click said.

"However, with the rapid changes in the cost, availability, provisions, and delivery of services within the health care industry in the United States, churches are again becoming focal points for meeting both spiritual and health care needs," he pointed out.

The congregational nurse initiative is being supported by a trio of Mississippi Baptist agencies: the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, Mississippi Health Systems Inc., in Jackson, and the



READY TO SERVE — Newly-trained congregational nurses celebrate with their instructors before their commissioning service May 23 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. The congregational nurse program, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, and the Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College School of Nursing, is preparing to offer congregational nurse training and guidance to Mississippi Baptist churches interested in a health ministry. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College School of Nursing in Clinton.

The crucial first steps for Mississippi Baptist churches interested in the program are to make the decision to begin a congregational nurse program, then identify a local nurse who would be willing to become certified in the field.

"Once a church makes the decision to become involved, we can help them identify a nurse resource person and guide that church and nurse through the certification process — but the only way this will work is if the church decides it wants to build a serious health ministry," Click said.

The first class of 10 certified congrega-

tional nurses was commissioned on May 23 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, after four days of course work and Christian fellowship entitled, Foundations of Congregational Health Nursing. Steve Stone, associate executive director for church growth at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, spoke at the event's praise and worship service on the morning of May 23.

For more information on the congregational nursing program, contact Deborah Bolian at the Mississippi College School of Nursing, P.O. Box 4037, Clinton, MS 39058. Telephone: (601) 925-3391. E-mail: bolian@mc.edu.

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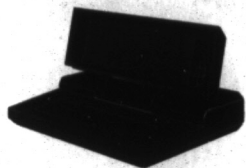
Miss. CP slips in May

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) in May totaled \$2,153,402, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. The May total represents 11.16% less than the \$2,423,811 given in May of last year, and 18.72% less than the \$2,649,283 given the previous month. Total CP giving for the current fiscal year, which runs from January-December, stands at \$12,989,725 — .89% below last year's giving during the same period and 1.04% ahead of current year budget needs. The 2004 Mississippi CP budget of \$30,854,971, was approved by messengers to the 2003 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,571,248 is needed each month to meet the convention board's budget for 2004. In addition to supporting more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP helps fund such programs as Children's Musical Camp on June 14-16 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko; the Single Again Conference on June 19 at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; and the GA Mother/Daughter Overnight on June 23 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

SBC CP down for month

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — May contributions to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) of \$16,698,405.33 were .74%, or \$124,570.89, below the \$16,822,976.22 received in May 2003, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. Year-to-date CP contributions, however, are up 4.6% compared to the same time frame in 2003. As of May 31, the year-to-date total of \$129,696,628.39 for Cooperative Program (CP) Missions is \$5,700,263.77 ahead of the \$123,996,364.62 received at this same point in 2003. Designated giving of \$152,526,373.11 for the same year-to-date period is 17.76%, or \$23,005,318.39, above gifts of \$129,521,054.72 received at this point in 2003. The \$20,983,748.37 in designated gifts received last month is \$3,283,291.08 above the \$17,700,457.29 of May 2003, an 18.55% increase. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$129,696,628.39 is 106.70% of the \$121,548,740.00 budgeted, or \$8,147,888.39 above budget to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The SBC operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Our declining institutions

There was a time in the history of this country when its people respected the rule of law because the people's institutions respected the rule of law. Those institutions and the visionary leaders embedded therein were above reproach and imbued with unshakable integrity. They knew honor and practiced it.

That's no longer true in many cases, and one of the darkest examples of the spiritual and moral decline of our institutions can be found among the trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) — the state college board — who are openly violating state law in approving the addition of gambling management courses at Mississippi's public universities.

The Gaming Control Act, as passed the people's elected representatives in the Mississippi Legislature, plainly prohibits the teaching of gambling courses at the state's public universities, but undaunted (and unelected) IHL trustees have announced their intention to ignore the rule of law and a Mississippi Attorney General's formal opinion that they must comply with the gambling prohibition.

"We have no desire to back up on this," said IHL President Roy Klumb of Gulfport in a May 20 article in the Clarion-Ledger newspaper of Jackson. "We're going to take it to where it needs to go to make it happen."

Since the approval of legalized gambling in Mississippi in the early 1990's, The Baptist Record has endeavored to point out how government-endorsed gambling leads to the inevitable corruption of people and institutions. Reports of shivering, hungry children locked in excrement-filled cars while their parents gamble away the family food money are not idle gossip. It really happens.

Prisons actually are filling up with otherwise-upstanding members of the community who embezzled millions upon millions of dollars to feed an insatiable gambling habit. "If there is a casino within 90 miles of your home, don't even trust your spouse and children with anything of value," said a speaker at an anti-gambling conference who had personal experience in that most cruel betrayal.

Mothers really do turn to prostitution to finance their gambling addiction, making gambling no different than crack cocaine or heroin. Fathers really do sign over the family house to get a few more miserable dollars with which to gamble.

It's a fact that people pull their own teeth with a dirty pair of pliers at the local pawn shop, so they can sell the gold fillings and race back to the casino with more money to throw away at the tables of fortune.

It's true that people are serving life sentences in the state penitentiary for killing the elderly in order to rob them and get back to the casinos as soon as possible. There's even a real case where a couple was killed in a Mississippi casino

elevator after winning a big jackpot.

Who would possibly want to be involved in such a filthy, despicable enterprise that commits so many crimes against humanity? Your state college board, that's who.

When our institutions decline, the people will soon follow. If Mississippi Baptists don't stand up to this latest travesty involving legalized gambling, who will?

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As we read the New Testament, we are not left with any question about the importance of the Kingdom of God in the life and teaching of Jesus. His ministry was announced by John the Baptist with the startling words: Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matt. 3:2). And after the time of Jesus' temptation, we are told that He "began to preach" the message of the Kingdom (4:17) — the clear implication being that His teaching on the Kingdom was not an occasional message, but a consistent message. Even a cursory reading of the Gospels will illustrate this.

This passion continued to the very end of His earthly life. A passage that often goes unnoticed as it relates to this is Acts 1:3. Luke tells us that during Jesus' last 40 days, He was speaking of the things concerning the Kingdom of God.

There can be no question that the Kingdom was the heartbeat of our Lord and should therefore be uppermost in our thinking.

Since the Kingdom of God is about God's rule and reign on earth — in, around and through His people — it is apparent that it is a divine activity which requires supernatural empowering. The Kingdom of God was and is about a totally new way to live.

GUEST OPINION:



Kingdom work is vital work

By Kenneth S. Hemphill
EKG National Strategist, Nashville

It is comprehensive, involving all aspects of our lives. It is compelling because it exhibits the power of God unleashed in the lives of His people.

The Kingdom of God is about God's right to invade our human existence with His Kingdom authority. For this reason it requires divine dynamite — the person of the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Acts gives us a living illustration of the working of the Holy Spirit through early Christians both individually and corporately. Just as Jesus commanded His followers to remain in Jerusalem until they had received the promised Holy Spirit (1:4-5), we too must never attempt any Kingdom activity in our human strength. If we do so, we will be doomed to failure, caught in the trap of carnal Christianity, enslaved to the Avis "we try harder" syndrome. We cannot produce Kingdom results without spiritual empowering. For this rea-

son, Empowering Kingdom Growth is not another program challenging Southern Baptists to greater activity. We have demonstrated a tendency to attempt to solve spiritual problems simply by doing more things, but this is counterproductive. Empowering Kingdom Growth is a challenge for each individual and church to focus on God's priorities and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us to produce Kingdom results. We cannot go forward without recognizing the importance of surrendering ourselves to the constant infilling of the Spirit.

Jesus promised that His followers would receive power after the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8). The evidence of this would be the boldness and effectiveness of their witness. It would literally saturate the world — penetrating Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world.

Let's face it: We cannot produce Kingdom results in our own strength. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is about God using us, rather than us trying to use Him. It is about our availability to advance His Kingdom, rather than our attempts to use Him to advance our own.

If we are going to undertake this pilgrimage to submit to the Father as He expands His Kingdom in, around and through us, we must follow the pattern of His Son and of the early church; we must be committed to prayer.

If Empowering Kingdom Growth is going to be more than another slogan producing even more fruitless activity, it must begin in the prayer closets of our homes and our churches. As a denomination, we cannot empower anyone for Kingdom growth; only the Holy Spirit can do that. His power is discovered as we surrender ourselves continually through prayer.

Empowering Kingdom Growth will be expressed differently in various churches and Southern Baptist entities, but it will be empowered consistently by the Holy Spirit. Thus the foundation of all we do must be prayer — consistent prayer, constant prayer, compassionate prayer. Good news! As with the disciples in Acts 4:33, abundant grace is available to us all!

So. Baptists set new missions giving record

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist churches and their 5,376 missionaries around the world are celebrating a monumental \$136.2 million response to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

When the books on the 2003 offering closed May 31, Southern Baptists had given \$136,204,648 — an increase of almost \$21.2 million, or 18.4%, over 2002 and the largest dollar increase in the offering's 115-year history.

"Southern Baptists are shouting 'Glory to God!' over this marvelous response to the needs of a lost world," said International Mission Board (IMB) President Jerry Rankin, a native Mississippian and graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. "God's people feel His heartbreak over 1.6 billion people with little hope of even hearing about Jesus Christ. They were distressed that qualified missionaries were being held back for lack of finances. And they responded with a vision and passion only God's Spirit can inspire."

"We are especially grateful to Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) for their wholehearted partnership in encouraging Southern Baptists to step up to this tremendous challenge."

"We are grateful for the priority that Southern Baptists have placed on missions support by giving sacrificially to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering," said Wanda Lee, executive director/treasurer of national WMU. "It is a privilege to partner with state WMU offices, WMU leaders, the International Mission Board, and missions advocates in our churches as we collectively seek to engage lit-



LOTTIE AT WORK — "If, by chance, you are wondering if you have made a difference, let us assure you that you have," says Sally Womble (standing). Womble and her husband Brad serve among the Songhai people of West Africa and were among 100 missionaries have written to thank Southern Baptists for their gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program. (BP photo)

erally everyone in the mission of God."

Rankin appealed to the churches for sacrificial giving because financial support had been lagging behind the increasing numbers of church members coming forward for overseas missionary service. The IMB was forced to limit missionary appointments and cut stateside staff in June 2003 to keep expenses in line with income.

The board now can loosen restrictions on missionary appointments, Rankin said. After projections indicated the offering would surpass its \$133 million goal, the agency's trustees voted in May to send 200 more long- and short-term missionaries than previously had been planned.

"Because Southern Baptists gave so unselfishly to the

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, we are sending out more missionaries this year," Rankin said. "The result will be that more people groups will be engaged and more individuals will hear the Gospel."

"God's desire is for all the world's peoples to know Him, and His Spirit is moving in Southern Baptist churches to fulfill the Great Commission in their Jerusalems, Judeas and Samarias — as well as to the ends of the earth."

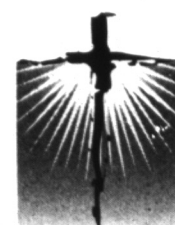
Such a stirring among Southern Baptists is just one dimension of a powerful movement of God's Spirit around the world, said Gordon Fort, the IMB's vice president for overseas operations. "Last year, more than 510,000 believers were baptized by Southern Baptist missionaries and their national Baptist co-workers. Our missionaries were able to engage 192 new people groups with the Gospel."

"All the turmoil and uncertainty in the world is creating a spiritual hunger, and people are unusually responsive to

the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. Traditional barriers are falling, and God is opening doors that have been closed for centuries. The harvest is accelerating, and God is calling out more laborers to work in the fields."

"This is the greatest day of opportunity we have ever seen."

That calls for churches to make an ever-deepening commitment to the commission Christ gave them to make disciples of all peoples, said Larry Cox, the board's vice president for mobilization and also a native Mississippian. "The task before us is enormous, and God's Spirit is moving quickly," Cox said. "Southern Baptists will have to move quickly if they are going to keep up with Him."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

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"We are not sending out these new missionaries for one year only. If they are going to be able to stay on the mission field — if we are going to be able to send the others God also is calling — we must sustain and increase this level of giving."

"Southern Baptist churches love missions. We are all about missions," Cox said. "Nothing stirs our hearts more than the thought of people who never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel just because we didn't provide the resources needed for someone to go and tell them."

• **Fast facts about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering:**
<http://ime.imb.org/Offering/fast-facts.asp>

• **Because you gave:**
<http://ime.imb.org/Offering/storiesgive.asp>

• **The Acts 1:8 Challenge:**
<http://www.actstone8.com>

• **What is the Cooperative Program?** <http://www.cpmis-sions.net>

Pressure mounting

WASHINGTON (BP) — As pressure continues to mount for President Bush to permit destructive research on human embryos, he is standing firm, a spokesman said. In the wake of a letter signed by nearly half the members of the U.S. House of Representatives, a majority of the Senate has signed on to a request asking Bush to revise his order barring federal funds for embryonic stem cell research. The Boston Globe reported June 2. The letter has accumulated the signatures of 56 of 100 senators and is still being circulated before its release, according to The Globe. The signers include 13 Republican senators, among them Trent Lott of Mississippi, Orrin Hatch of Utah and Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, the newspaper reported. A White House spokesman told The Globe the president has not changed his mind, saying Bush "continues to believe strongly that we should not cross a fundamental moral line of funding or encouraging the destruction of human embryos." In late April, 206 House members, including 36 Republicans, sent a letter to the president asking him to change his policy. The House has 435 members. Ten days later, Nancy Reagan made her latest public endorsement of embryonic stem cell research at a Hollywood fundraiser. In response to the House letter, Elias Zerhouni, director of the National Institutes of Health, wrote May 14 to report that Bush still opposes government funds for such experimentation. In August 2001, Bush issued an order barring federal grants for stem cell research that results in the destruction of embryos. The procurement of stem cells from an embryo only days old brings about the death of the tiny human being. Stem cells are primitive cells from which cells and tissues in the human body develop.

Looking back

10 years ago

Opposing sides square off in Biloxi before the Mississippi Gaming Commission in the battle over a proposed casino within sight of Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. "I would describe the response from Baptists as a 'flood,'" said Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission in Jackson.

20 years ago

Pastors of Baptist churches across Mississippi begin meetings to organize the state's participation in the SBC Home Mission Board's nationwide revival effort for 1986, called Good News America: God Loves You.

50 years ago

First Church, Grenada, dissents from the Southern Baptist Convention, stating "this church is not in accord with the Convention endorsement of the recent Supreme Court decision on segregation in public education... Continuation of such actions could eventually cause the withdrawal of this and other churches from cooperation with the Convention."

Debate continues over SBC Disney boycott

ORLANDO (ABP) — The Baptist boycott of the Walt Disney Co. had little effect on the media conglomerate, but it succeeded in establishing the Southern Baptist Convention as the dominant denominational voice for conservative values, says the author of a forthcoming book.

In his book, *The Gospel According to Disney*, Mark Pinsky, religion writer for the Orlando Sentinel, offers an assessment of the Southern Baptist boycott, which targeted the entertainment giant for gay-friendly policies and "anti-Christian" messages in its movies.

Pinsky said the boycott of Disney products did not have the intended effect of curtailing sales or changing the company's practices, but it did bolster the reputation of Southern Baptists as cultural crusaders. "Despite fears that the boycott would make them look like backwoods, knuckle-scraping yokels — as some feared when the boycott was first proposed — Southern Baptist leaders found that this publicity helped them," wrote Pinsky. "In the domestic religious marketplace, at least, their controversial stands established and burnished their own brand as THE conservative, family values denomination."

The book, subtitled *Faith, Trust and Pixie Dust*, is a sequel to Pinsky's 2001 book, *The Gospel According to the Simpsons*.

The new book, due out in August, offers a broad, chronological analysis of the religious and social messages in Disney's feature films from 1937 to 2003. Separate chapters are devoted to Disney's theme parks and the "cultural clash" presented by the Baptist boycott.

June marks the seven-year anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention boycott. After challenging Disney to change its ways in a 1996 resolution, the SBC joined several smaller Christian groups to boycott Disney in 1997, complaining that Disney — through

its feature films and a myriad of subsidiaries — had abandoned the family-friendly image cultivated by founder Walt Disney.

"In the months and years following the boycott vote and ensuing controversy, essentially nothing happened," wrote Pinsky, who is Jewish. "The denomination, as some within it feared — and warned — appeared to be an economic paper tiger."

Disney's financial fortunes "did decline dramatically" during the late 1990s and early 2000s, Pinsky wrote, and Southern Baptists justifiably took some credit. But no research validated their claim, he added. Financial analysts instead blamed recession, terrorism, sluggish retail sales, and the low ratings of Disney-owned ABC-TV.

Meanwhile, only 30% of Southern Baptists complied with the boycott, according to a poll taken a year after it began. The New York Times last year called the boycott an "utter flop" and noted no media company would fear the wrath of Southern Baptists, Pinsky reported.

However, publicity for the boycott brought "considerable exposure" to Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville, landing him on the news media's "Golden Rolodex" and helping establish his daily syndicated radio show on 600 stations, Pinsky wrote. Likewise, the media attention elevated the stature of R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville and Land's "telegenic rival in the denomination." However, Dwayne Hastings, an ERLC

vice president and spokesperson, said Land and Mohler were not products of the boycott. "They were rising stars anyway," he said. "The times demanded that they be there and that their voices be heard."

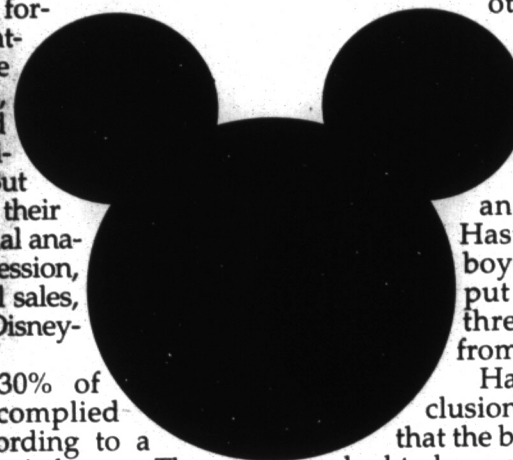
Land and Mohler "were somewhat prophetic in their own right" by taking on the Disney juggernaut publicly, Hastings said, but here was a downside. They and other Christian leaders were "typecast" by their opposition, he said.

About Pinsky, who has written extensively about the boycott for the Orlando Sentinel and other publications, Hastings said, "The Disney boycott helped him too. It put his name out there. All three of them benefited from it somewhat."

Hastings disputed the conclusion of Pinsky and others that the boycott was ineffectual. "It had to have an impact," he said.

"I would not take credit for a downturn in their stock," he noted, adding, "It's very, very difficult to extract out and say 'we did this' or 'we did that.' But there were too many boycotters not to have some effect, he said. "Too many people in my circle made decisions [to avoid Disney products] that it had to have an impact, because my family isn't that unique," Hastings reasoned.

Beyond the economic effect, he continued, the boycott "shined a spotlight" on Disney that CEO Michael Eisner did not welcome, highlighting the company's moral inconsistencies. The boycott "definitely sensitized a lot of Americans to what Disney was," Hastings concluded.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(*I have sinned.*)
 2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(*I repent.*)
 3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.
(*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)
- But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

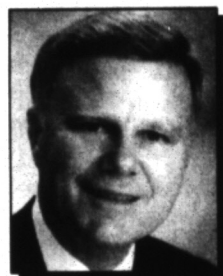
If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

THE DIFFICULTY OF DOING GOOD

Throughout the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — Jesus is seen repeatedly doing good things: helping someone, healing someone, feeding the multitudes, or teaching the ways of God. A verse in the book of Acts sums it up as it says, "Jesus went about doing good." Yet, doing good is not always easy to do. In fact, doing good in the eyes of some people can be bad, or at least it may be interpreted as "not so good!"

When I started out in ministry I thought that doing good would be a good thing! I thought that preaching the Word of God, teaching, leading in worship, helping the hurting, caring about the broken and grieving would all be good things. I almost could imagine that people would be lined up applauding and thanking me for doing good throughout the community. I was naive as well as uninformed.

I remained that way throughout my ministry for over three decades. I thought it strange and I did not understand when instead of applause, there were times when I was attacked. Instead of hearing the sounds of clapping, I heard the sounds of critics. Often I was bewildered, but I kept on trying to move ahead and still do good things. Being a historical late-bloomer and slow-learner, I finally woke



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

up one day and realized some of the difficulties about doing good things and why they are not readily received. Let me try to explain it to you as I came to understand it.

First of all, I finally realized that any time you do something good; it opens the door for criticism about things you did not do! Regardless of what it is, the potential is there. Help in a crisis in the community and there will be someone, possibly many, who will rise up and say, "Well, you didn't help me when I had that crisis!" Attend some church member's uncle's funeral and you will begin to hear the stir from the folks whose uncle died and you did not get there. Focus on and give special attention to some particular program in the church and you will hear from those who you did not beat the drum for their special interest.

Beyond that the second thing that may come, if you are not criticized for what you didn't do, is the criticism related to the way you did what you did do.

It is not always the case, but I have observed with interest through the years that people who are criticizing folks for the way they do something are generally not doing anything at all about the situation. Sometimes you hear, "Well, they should have done that earlier! They should have waited! They should have done more! They shouldn't have done so much!" There is always a way that other people would have done it and they add criticism to the way it was done.

The third and final difficulty in doing good is that someone or many ones will misinterpret your motives for doing whatever you do. Regardless of what it is, someone will express what they are convinced your ulterior motives were. You can risk your life or reputation and step out on a limb on behalf of someone else to try and do good and someone will explain that it is just "self-serving" or that you were only trying to call attention to yourself, or even that you were trying to build your own kingdom!

There is always some devious, maybe even diabolical, reason why you are doing good and rarely, if ever, can someone do good things because it is the right thing to do. I have frequently sat in utter amazement as I listen to someone explain what they knew was someone else's ulterior motive. They may be right, but I have always been intrigued at how emphatic they could be in explaining the deepest thoughts of someone else. In truth, sometimes if not frequently, they were wrong!

All of that is to say that doing good is not an easy thing to accomplish, and that the above and many other reasons really do not provide an excuse for failing to do good! We need to understand that it would be better to help someone even though you may be criticized by two others that you didn't help them, than to have three that you didn't help.

It is better to do good even though someone else may know of a better way of going about doing it, than to do nothing and watch others as they do nothing. Also, it is better to do good even when your motives are misinterpreted or misunderstood than it is to do nothing and provide evidence of the fact that you don't care!

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What Now? seeking to mobilize Baptists

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — First, a tremendous explosion. Then smoke billows on the horizon. A crowd gathers before a television in a store window. "What now?" they ask.

Since the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001, many hearts are filled with fear. Daily newscasts about home invasions, terrorist attacks, stock market collapses and other catastrophes do nothing to lessen the uncertainty. America's security has been shattered, and people are searching for meaning and purpose in life as never before.

With so many lost souls asking, "What now?" five Southern Baptist leaders say God's people should be asking themselves the same question.

"Just as world events have created an unprecedented interest in spiritual matters in lost hearts, they also have created a yearning in the hearts of God's people — a desire for a great spiritual awakening that would draw multitudes to Christ," said Robert E. (Bob) Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta. "The greatest crisis we face is spiritual. God has given the nation a hunger for Him, and He has prepared Southern Baptists to help fill that hunger."

Toward that end, "What Now?" — a three-year campaign for personal revival and national spiritual awakening — calls on Southern Baptists to

engage the nation with the message that there is hope in times of difficulty. Beginning with prayer for renewal and revival, What Now? sets a God-sized goal of mobilizing one million Southern Baptists to

waiting for Christians to share 'the hope that is within us.' The What Now? campaign gives Southern Baptists a wonderful opportunity to join God in helping our nation find the Answer to all their questions, the One who calms every fear.

America needs to hear a clear word from God, said the leader of another key partner in the What Now? campaign. "Jesus is the solution to the problems that plague us," said James T. Draper Jr., president of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. "The Gospel is the only hope and we must share it. Christianity is being caricatured and distorted. The church needs to declare a clear and positive word from the Lord."

"We must tackle the tremendous challenges we face. What Now? will help us maximize our energies for a common — and very biblical — goal: reaching people and planting churches."

The God-sized goals of What Now? are the kind that can capture the heart and passion of Southern Baptists — and teach them to rely on a God who can do far more than we can ask or even imagine, said Wanda Lee, executive director/treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in Birmingham.

"With enthusiasm and passion for reaching North America for Christ, WMU is pleased to partner in this call to Southern Baptists," Lee said.

"As long as there are people and places without a Gospel witness, WMU will challenge Christian believers to a radical commitment of time and resources to God's mission."

The vision of baptizing one million new believers recalls stories of sweeping prayer movements and great awakenings in previous generations — something this generation of Southern Baptists has never seen, said Gerry Taillon, national ministry leader of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists.

"Life invariably moves in the direction of the selfish and unfocused," Taillon said. "Believers, churches and denominational organizations must focus on the priorities of the Great Commission to avoid becoming sidetracked by embracing self-centered undertakings. What Now? refocuses our energy and resources on our fundamental mission and anticipates the powerful activity of God."

When millions of God's people humbly offer themselves for His will to be done, entire communities, even a whole nation, could turn to God in repentance, said J. Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

English-language What Now? overview guides have been mailed to most churches and are available for download at <http://whatnowamerica.com> and <http://whatnowcanada.com>. Guide translations in 10 languages will be available this summer.



share the Gospel, start 100,000 new Bible study units, and baptize one million new believers.

The outreach will culminate with the largest national media campaign ever undertaken by Southern Baptists, a million-dollar program of television, radio, periodicals, and Internet advertising designed to get the attention of millions who do not attend church or are not immediately receptive to the Gospel message.

"North America is hungry for the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Reccord said. "Millions of our family, friends, co-workers and neighbors are empty and seeking the satisfaction that only comes from a personal relationship with Him. They are simply

FamilyNet to inaugurate news service at SBC

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — FamilyNet television has added a news department to enhance its ministry to family focused viewers, and the daily reports will kick off with coverage of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Indianapolis on June 15-16.

The 24-hour television network owned and operated by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) recently hired Lorri Allen as director of the FamilyNet news department and has since assembled a news team ready to televise reports of current events from a Christian perspective.

"FamilyNet News will be a blend of the day's headlines and stories that affect families," Allen said in a May 2 news release. "Most importantly, these newscasts will be safe for all ages to watch. We will not hesitate to air good news stories with happy endings."



Allen

Headline news, in-depth interviews, live shots and investigative reporting supported by the Fox NewsEdge feed and a national news wire service will be part of the FamilyNet News arm, according to the release.

FamilyNet's agreement with Fox News allows them to act as an affiliate, receiving about seven hours of video footage each day — or 170,000 stories per year. FamilyNet then chooses the material of special interest to its audience, Allen said.

"Every news organization has its own voice based on the news it chooses to cover," Martin Coleman, FamilyNet's vice president of programming, said. "We will not ignore breaking news of the day; however, we will put an emphasis on stories that are family focused. We're not doing different news; we're doing news differently."

The first news broadcasts began May 5 within daily segments of "At Home — Live" on FamilyNet, Allen said. Starting June 14, FamilyNet will implement the periodic 80-second news breaks into its regular programming, typically at the top of the hour Monday through Friday.

"We are so excited about being able to provide a faith-based, family focused newscast," Allen told Baptist Press. "Christians need to be well-informed of what's going on, and sometimes it's hard to sift through all the negative, bashing, biased news. So I hope that people will find it refreshing to be able to turn to FamilyNet for news they can trust."

FamilyNet will bring viewers daily coverage of the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis June 15-16, including key issues as well as interviews with leaders and messengers.

The network also is planning a prime-time series of worldview programs slated for a fall premier, the news release said. The one-hour programs will cover a variety of topics relevant to today's

families, including politics and public policy, popular culture and law and justice. Janet Parshall, Jay Sekulow, and Hugh Hewitt have already signed on to be part of the nightly shows.

Robert E. Reccord, president of NAMB, said he considers the worldview programming announcement the most exciting in the network's history. It is based on a concept NAMB leaders began discussing about five years ago, when television and the culture at large had become increasingly values-neutral and secular.

"Our first decision was we wanted to do a major prime-time block of Christian worldview programming, because how you perceive and view reality makes all the difference in how you respond to reality," Reccord said.

Based in Fort Worth, Texas, FamilyNet airs more than 50 hours of original, value-based programs weekly and is accessible to more than 32 million households. For more information, visit www.familynet.com.

Former AFR official is sentenced

Kerry Dwayne Stevens, the one-time director of children's news for Tupelo-based American Family Radio (AFR), was sentenced June 2 to 15 years in federal prison for producing child pornography, according to an article in the June 3 issue of the Clarion Ledger. The 47-year-old Stevens, who was also responsible for a children's show at AFR, admitted to two counts of producing sexually-explicit images of a minor child while she slept. The child was a friend of Steven's daughter.

Stevens also generated controversy when he wrote a letter to U.S. Congressman Roger Wicker of Tupelo asking him to intervene on his behalf in federal court. The letter was turned over to prosecutors, who branded it an "overt attempt to obstruct justice."

Don Wildmon, executive director of the American Family Association which owns AFR, told The Clarion Ledger, "It's tragic for everyone involved." The organization has continued to provide support for Steven's family during their ordeal, Wildmon added.

Homecomings & Revivals

Parkhill, Jackson: Homecoming June 13; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish luncheon will follow; Gary White, speaker; Sarah Robertson, music.

Union, Sardis: Revival June 28-July 1; 7 p.m. nightly; Desi Ginn, evangelist; Don Brummet, song leader; Robert Hickey, pastor.

Palestine, Harrisville: Homecoming June 27; worship, 10:45 a.m.; lunch will be served; cemetery business will follow; Jimmy Strickland, guest speaker.

Red Lick, Lorman: Homecoming June 26; worship, 5 p.m.; Heavens Grace, singing; historical memories; a covered dish supper will be served in the fellowship hall; Charles Gammel, pastor.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Friendship Church, Grenada, recently held Bible Drills. Children (pictured from left, front) are Scott Graham, Dustin Ward, Ashley Mims, Emily Davis, and their leaders (back) are Norma Morgan and Lisa Davis. Youth (pictured from left, front) are Lyle Cole, Whitney Graham, Mitch Davis, Joshua McNutt, and their leaders (back) Tracey Dowdle, Janice White, and Sandra Liles.

The Children's Choir of Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur, presented Holy Moses recently. Holy Moses is based on the life of Moses as his life changed from rags to riches, then riches to rags, and later as God's chosen leader of his chosen people. Presentation of the musical was based on the television show Trading Spaces.



Children of Clark Venable Church, Decatur



Youth Bible Drill Participants of Friendship Church, Grenada



Children Bible Drill Participants of Friendship Church, Grenada

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

Terrica McBride was recognized recently for 16 years perfect attendance at Utica Church, Utica. Pictured (from left) are McBride and Marke Ezelle, Sunday School Director.

Morgantown Church, Natchez, will hold VBS June 21-25 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. June 19 will be the VBS kick-off from 1-2:30 p.m. at Rivergate Bowling Lanes.

VBS will be held at **Hickory Grove Church, Sumrall**, for children age 3-grade 6 June 14-18 from 6-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 758-3519 or (601) 731-7604.

\$1,747.87. Rubye Fulton is the WMU director and Charles Gentry is pastor.



McBride and Ezelle

Loretta Ford Baker and Ben James, pastor, of Utica Church, Utica, display the church's 175th Anniversary Plaque presented to them by the Mississippi Baptist Historical Foundation April 25.

Fifty Alabama Baptist ministers from throughout Alabama and Mississippi came to Marion, Ala., May 10 and 11 for **Junson College's 42nd Annual Ministers Golf Tournament**. David Vogelgesang, the College's Interim Vice President for Advancement, superintended the event. The top three winners were Tyrone Parton, pastor of Maplesville Church, Maplesville, Ala., placed first, and Charles Davis, Director of Missions for Pike County Baptist Association, placed second. Pictured (from left) are Gene Walley, Richton, Charles Davis, McComb, David Byrd, Jasper, Ala., and Steve Walley, Daphne, Ala.

The GA workers of **Providence Church, Hattiesburg**, sponsored a men's bake-off contest to add offerings to Annie Armstrong and raised \$1,048. The goal was \$5,000 and a total of \$7,095.05 was given. GA workers are Pam Bates, Tina Caves, and Sandy Welborn.

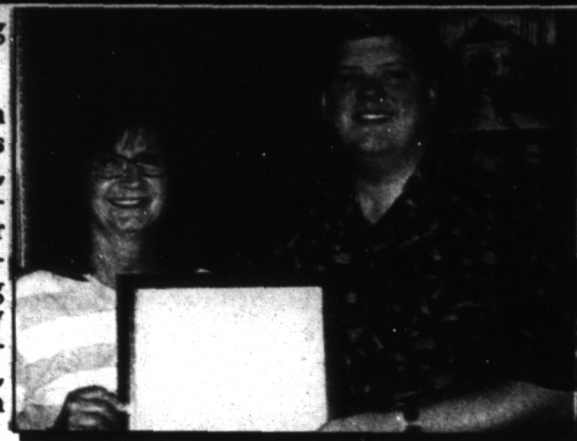
The women's ministry of **Holly Church, Corinth**, recently held a Believing God Women's Retreat. They celebrated their worship in a craft reminding them of Beth Moore's five statement pledge of faith.

The annual Missions Recognition Service was held at **First Church, Columbia**, May 19. There were 104 young people recognized, including 9 queens. Wayne VanHorn is pastor.

Calvary Church, Parchman, held revival services recently with 14 decisions and four baptized. Mark Vincent was the

evangelist. Joe Young is pastor.

Tusculum Church, Prentiss County Association, recently began construction on their multi-purpose facility. The new building will have Sunday School rooms, a fellowship hall, kitchen, and gym. Jason Pilcher is pastor.



Loretta Ford Baker and Ben James, pastor



Mallory Chadwick, Jess Chadwick, pastor, and Jonathan Chadwick

Midway Church, Jackson, exceeded their \$800 Annie Armstrong goal and gave

Blue Lake Church, Lambert, recently collected can tops for St. Jude Hospital. They collected 22 pounds and 10 ounces to turn into Batesville Middle School. Pictured are Jess Chadwick, pastor, with Mallory and Jonathan Chadwick.

New Officers were recently elected for the **Northeast Mississippi Pastor's Conference**. Pictured (from left) are Secretary Danny Bryant, AMD Chickasaw Association and pastor of Pleasant Ridge Church; Vice President Clay Anthony, pastor of Richmond Church, Lee Association; and President Philip Caples, pastor of Shiloh Church, Alcorn Association.

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Columbia Church Missions Recognition, Columbia



Danny Bryant, Clay Anthony, and Philip Caples



Gene Walley, Charles Davis, David Byrd, and Steve Walley

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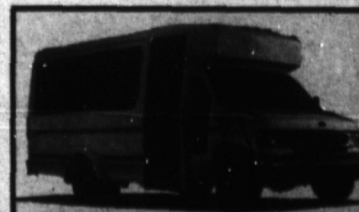
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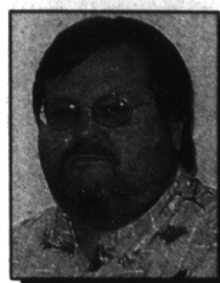


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BAPTIST COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

Mark A. McComb of Clinton, Assistant Professor in the School of Business, received the first annual Mississippi College School of Business Outstanding Teaching Faculty Award for 2003/2004. The School of Business Student Advisory Board selects the Outstanding Teaching Faculty.



McComb

2003/2004. The School of Business Student Advisory Board selects the Outstanding Teaching Faculty.



Royce, president, and McMillan

Edward McMillan, Vice President of Graduate Studies, Emeritus, spoke at Mississippi College graduation ceremonies for the Graduate School May 7. McMillan stressed the importance of bringing forth a harvest of new leaders. MC graduates number approximately 500 for the May 2004 year. Pictured are Lee Royce, MC president, and McMillan.

Dan Jones, Vice Chancellor, University Medical Center, spoke at the Mississippi College undergraduate graduation ceremonies May 8. Jones shared three lessons that a graduate must learn in life. Leading the invocation was Tom Prather, Church Growth Specialist, MBCB, and leading the Benediction was Lewis Oswalt, Associate Professor of Music, MC. Pictured are Jones, Lee Royce, MC President, Prather, and Oswalt.

The William Carey College Department of Theatre recently honored students at the 2004 Awards Dinner, Hattiesburg campus. Michelle Baxter received the Most Valuable Member of Serampore Players award and a technical achievement award. Carrie Ferguson-Bellew received a Technical Achievement Award. Abbie Hall was awarded the O. L. Quave Theatre Scholarship. Vickie Hall was awarded the Mark Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship. An Acting Achievement Award recipient, Mandy Jackson, received the Bob Crumpton Memorial Scholarship. Joel King received

an Acting Achievement Award and the Obra L. Quave Theatre Award. An Acting Achievement Award was given to Audrea McMillen. Kristen Miller received an Acting Achievement Award. Lauren Rasmussen received the Doris Schneider Award in Technical Theatre. The Joyce Quave Roberts Memorial Scholarship was presented to Josh Rivero. James Stewart received an Acting Achievement Award. Pictured (from left, standing) are

Miller, Rivero, Jackson, King, Vickie Hall, Stewart, Rasmussen, (seated) Ferguson-Bellew, Baxter, McMillen, and Abbie Hall.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., celebrated its Spring commencement ceremonies May 22 with 246 students graduating from graduate and undergraduate programs, the largest graduating class in school history. Melanie Massad Lenow, Jackson, received her Master of Arts.

The recipients of the United Parcel Services award have been announced at William Carey College. **Bethany Festervand** and **Valerie White** received UPS

Scholarships and the designation of UPS Scholar based on their academic record.

Blue Mountain College President Bettye Rogers Coward announced that **Sharon Ball Enzor** has been named Vice President for Academic Affairs effective June 1. Enzor, a graduate of BMC and faculty member since 1990, serves as Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and as Professor of Science.



Enzor

Twenty-seven students from the **Mississippi State University BSU** served at one of three mission projects during their spring break. Students were called to serve at Mission Arlington, Arlington, Texas; Corpus Christi Collegiate Mission Project, Corpus Christi, Texas; and Panama City Beach Reach, Panama City, Fla. Pictured are the MSU students that took part in the projects.

The **Mississippi College Outstanding Young Faculty of Year Award**, established this year by George and Alicia Pittman, was awarded to Dana Roppolo Rice May 3. Rice, MC professor for six years, is an opera performer and accomplished teacher of applied voice, music appreciation, and music theory. Pictured are MC President Lee Royce, Rice, and the Pittmans.

The **Mississippi College Alumni Association** will host the annual ice cream fellowship at the Southern Baptist

Convention June 15 from 7-10:30 p.m. This event will be held inside the Indiana Convention Center/RCA Dome in room 211 on Level 2. All alumni and family, prospective students, and student's parents are welcome. There is no charge.

Carey Dinner Theatre, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, has announced summer productions. The

corporate sponsor will be BancorpSouth. W.A. Warren Construction Co. is co-sponsor. Pump Boys and Dinettes and will be presented Tuesday-Saturday June 15-July 3. You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown will be presented July 13-24. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. in the O. L. Quave Theatre with the performance to follow. Seats may be reserved by calling (601) 318-6221. Admission is \$20.



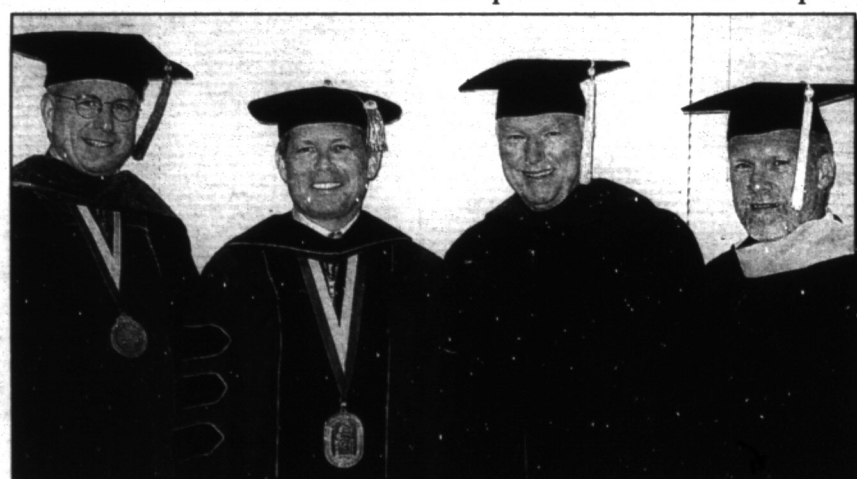
MSU BSU Spring Break Corpus Christi Mission Trip Participants



MSU BSU Spring Break Panama City Mission Trip Participants



MSU BSU Spring Break Arlington Mission Trip Participants



Jones, Royce, president; Prather, and Oswalt



William Carey College Theatre Awards Recipients



Royce, president; Rice, and the Pittmans

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Eighteen youth and 16 children from **Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale**, competed at State Bible Drill, Batesville. Pictured are the youth and children.

Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian, held a recognition for their Senior Adults May 2. Mary Knight and Bobbye Jean Knight gave their testimonies. The senior choir provided music. Jim Rickles is pastor and Janeice Powell is the Senior Adult Coordinator.

The Acteens of **Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce**, participated in the statewide mission program Rock On. They passed out tracts for six nights following The Passion at the local movie theater.

Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce, had four youth, Rebekah Baker, Brandy Gann, Christopher Baker, and Janae Harrelson, and two children, Daniel Braddock and Benjamin Baker, participate in State Bible Drill, Batesville, April 22. Teresa Harrelson and Debbi Harrelson are leaders.

The children's choir of **Goss Church, Columbia**, presented Sermon on the Mount May 2. Pictured are the choir members. Alicia Bass and Melinda King are directors and Mark McArthur is pastor.

First Church of Lyman, Gulfport, celebrated Senior Adult Day May 2. Pictured (from left) are Beverly Lee, senior adult director, Charles Sharp, Outstanding Senior Adult of the Year, and Garland Boyd, pastor. Sharp was presented a plaque and Lee was presented a dozen roses for her ten years as service.

The RAs of **Williamsville Church, Kosciusko**, participated in the state competition at Central Hills April 24 placing 2nd overall in events such as race cars, marksmanship, and speeches on missions. Pictured are some of the participants.



Senior Adults of Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian



RAs of Williamsville Church, Kosciusko



Children Bible Drill Participants of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale



Youth Bible Drill Participants of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale



Children's Choir of Goss Church, Columbia



Beverly Lee, Charles Sharp, and Garland Boyd, pastor



Bible Drill Participants of Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce



Acteens of Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce

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PIANIST NEEDED. MAIL RESUME TO Liberty Baptist Church, 5199 Lakeland Drive, Flowood, MS 39232. Or call (601) 992-0345.

FULL-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY needed! Please send resumes to personnel committee, Dixie Baptist Church, 111 Dixie Church Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Deadline is June 25, 2004.

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Must be computer literate in all areas. Send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, 503 18th Ave. N., Columbus, MS 39705. Call (662) 328-1668, ext. 203.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH in Meridian, Miss., seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Resumes should be sent to minister of music search committee, Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301. For more information, call (601) 644-3532 or (601) 644-3537.

POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, Mendenhall, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music and evangelism. Send resume to Poplar Springs Baptist Church, 362 Poplar Springs Rd., Mendenhall, MS 39114 or email to cody1950@bellsouth.net. Call (601) 847-2555, Jack Woodard, pastor.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND youth. Send resume to search committee, Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2278, Pascagoula, MS 39569.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Beaver, Trout, and Hill

Ogden Church, Benton, recently held Bible Drill. Pictured (from left, front) are Lyndsey Cupples, Adam Alexander, (middle) Joanna King, Anna Clark, Taylor King, and leaders (back) Dena Reeder, and Carol Alexander.

The **India Children's Choir** recently held a concert at Williamsville Church, Kosciusko.

The children sang and told the story of their ancestors, once head hunters and now heart hunters for the Lord. The children taught Williamsville how to spread the gospel by mailing language translated bibles to foreign countries.

Members of **Emmanuel Church, Union**, went to Nueve Laredo, Mexico, on a spring

break mission trip. The team passed out bibles and worked on a boy's dorm and purchased food for the Casaelim Orphanage. The group stayed at Permian Church, Laredo. Members on the trip were Amanda Harrison, Jason Harrison, Robert Daniels, Joey Pigg, Bill and Pat Hall, Kevin Harrison, Lamar Mahaffey, Leslie, Liddia, and Brandon Hughes.

Calvary Church, Pascagoula, recently participated in Bible Drill. Pictured are Sam Beaver, leader Robyn Trout, and Austin Hill. Beaver competed in State Drill, Gulfport.

Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association, held a groundbreaking for the Family Life Center April 18. Pictured are the building committee and congregation.

Holly Church, Corinth, recently observed Old Fashioned Day and groundbreaking services for a new family life center. Heritage of Faith (pictured) remember worshipping in the original white plank building. Tony Morrow is pastor.

Indian Springs Church, Perry County, will have VBS,



Mother/Daughter Tea Participants of Calvary Church, Pascagoula



Mother/Daughter Tea Participants of Calvary Church, Pascagoula

God's All-Star Champions, June 14-17 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for ages 4-6th grade. The commencement service will be held June 18 at 6:30 p.m. Allyson Howard is director and Brad Howard is pastor.

A mother/daughter tea was held May 8 at **Calvary Church, Pascagoula**. Pictured are the two mothers, Tommie Holmes and Henrietta Noblett, with the most children in attendance.

Mt. Olivet, Scott County, which reopened in 2003 and now has 39 members, held an Old Fashion Day with dinner on the ground May 2 with 51 in attendance. Glenn Hayman is pastor.

David Elam, lay speaker, brought the Easter sunrise message at **Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association**. Robert E. Walker is pastor.

www.mbc.org



India Children's Choir



Concord Church Ground Breaking, Benton-Tippah Association



Mt. Olive Church Old Fashioned Day, Scott County



Mission Trip Participants of Emmanuel Church, Union



Holly Church Old Fashioned Day, Corinth



David Elam

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

By Mo Baker

"Tradition is the living faith of those now dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of those still living" (Pelikan 1984, 65). Which of these two words characterizes the Lord's Supper service in your church? Is it a vibrant celebration of the sacrifice and eternal reign of Christ over sin, or has it become an empty ritual devoid of contemporary meaning? Christians can learn from the Bible's teachings on the Lord's Supper about how to make it a worshipful experience through which they can demonstrate love for Christ and affirm unity with one another. Let's notice some observations from the Bible passages related to the Lord's Supper.

I. THE LORD'S SUPPER INVOLVES CELEBRATION (MT 26:26-29).

On his final night on earth,

Jesus and His disciples shared the Passover meal together. Passover was a time of celebration to remember the goodness of God in leading His people out of Egyptian bondage (see Ex. 12; Lev. 23:4-8; Nu. 9:1-14, and Dt. 16:1-8). Jesus used the last supper with his disciples to help them understand that they could celebrate the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, God's act of redemption from humanity's bondage to sin. The broken bread and cup of wine symbolized his body figuratively broken and literally killed and his blood spilled out just hours later at Calvary. As they observed Jesus hold up both the loaf and the cup, the disciples certainly would have understood Jesus to be giving an object lesson. Using Jesus' words, "This is my body" (v. 26) to form a doctrine of transubstantiation (the bread and wine become Christ's



Baker

actual body and blood) or consubstantiation (Christ is literally present in, with, and under the elements) completely ignores the historical context. In Aramaic the words would have been spoken without a linking verb ("is"), and would read literally, "this, my body," and "this, my blood" (Blomberg 1992, 390).

Jesus also implies (v. 29) that their meal together was a celebration of the future kingdom of God. God's kingdom is characterized by the "blood of the covenant" (v. 28), which refers back to Ex. 24:8 and Jer. 31:31-34. The sacrificial death of Christ creates a covenant community of those who accept Jesus as Lord. To participate in the Lord's Supper is to affirm such a reality. Jesus and the disciples concluded their meal with singing one or more hymns. The typical closing round of the Passover liturgy came from Psalms 113-118. Ending the last supper with songs of praise testifies to the celebration aspect with which Christians view the Lord's Supper.

II. THE LORD'S SUPPER INVOLVES PROCLAMATION (1 Co 11:23-26).

The Lord's Supper is a method of preaching the gospel. While verses 23-25 parallel closely Luke 22:19-20, verse 26 may be unique to Paul. The idea behind "proclaim the Lord's death" (v. 26) is to set forth or interpret its meaning for worshipers. Hence, the Lord's Supper is a visible "sermon" about the sacrificial death of Christ. Neither Jesus nor Paul gave specific instructions concerning the frequency of the Lord's Supper. The use of "whenever" (v. 26) is Paul's way of saying that believers should celebrate the Lord's Supper at such times as determined by the local body. Paul even attributes to Jesus the same word (v. 25), although the source of the quotation is unclear. Regardless, the Lord's Supper is a worshipful declaration of the sacrifice of Christ and points to his future return.

III. THE LORD'S SUPPER INVOLVES EXAMINATION (1 Co 11:27-32).

Paul was concerned that

Christians participate in the Lord's Supper correctly. The Corinthian church had abused the Lord's Supper and was guilty of "unworthy" use of the ordinance. Christians today can be guilty of such unworthiness by being insensitive to the presence of Christ, irresponsible to the meaning of His sacrifice, and unconcerned for the fellowship of the church. The remedy for such contemptible attitudes is self-examination (v. 28), which, according to Paul's language, should result in a positive outcome. Paul's idea here is similar to the testing of a metal to prove its authenticity. "It implies the purpose of detecting the good and recognizing it as reliable" (Grosheide 1980, 274). Failure to engage in self-examination results in God's judgment.

A proper understanding of the Lord's Supper is essential for Christian worship. Regarding the Lord's Supper as a time of celebration, proclamation, and examination can assist Christians in worshipping God suitably.

Baker is BSU Director at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Hold on to God-given Dreams

2 Kings 4: 8, 16, 17, 18-22, 32-37

By Mary Carraway

Elisha's ministry is characterized by miracles. Unfortunately, we sometimes lose sight of the miracles in our lives, focusing instead on the disappointment when our dreams and hopes are not realized or when they are shattered. Recently I watched on TV as a Baptist preacher wept for his nineteen-year-old son, killed in Iraq. I wept too. Even Christians are not immune to such tragedies in their families, jobs, home, or health. Life happens! These times of heartache can cause a crisis of faith, but God is not the destroyer of our dreams, or the author of our despair. In difficulty, we can trust Him, or we can allow adversity to overcome us. The focus of this lesson is a woman who responded in faith to life's ultimate joy and life's ultimate sorrow.

DREAMING BIG (2 KINGS 4:8, 16)

Elisha lived in Mount Carmel and often traveled through Shunem about 15 miles southeast on his way to Jezreel. A wealthy Shunammite woman who often watched him pass by provided him with room and board. Elisha, touched by her generosity, desired to repay her. There seemed to be nothing that the woman needed until his servant Gehazi informed him that the woman was childless and her husband was "old." Though she had not expressed her sadness at not having a child, surely she felt it! To be barren in that society was taken as a curse from God. Elisha promised her that in a year's time, she would have a son. It is understandable that she



Carraway

expressed some polite skepticism, for human experience had taught her that if she did not already have children, she probably never would. To become a mother must have seemed like an impossible dream.

REALIZING DREAMS (2 KINGS 4:17)

God graciously took her unspoken dream and turned it into reality. The woman was rewarded for her kindness to Elisha and her recognition of him as a "man of God." She gave birth to a son the following year. We can only imagine the joy and celebration.

TURNING TO GOD (2 KINGS 4:18-22)

This child of promise must have been a delight to his mother and to his father too, for he went with him to the field to work. Then the unthinkable happened. The child, screaming in agony, apparently suffered sunstroke. His father sent him home to his

mother who lovingly cradled him in her arms until the boy died. I don't have to imagine that mother's pain. I have experienced it myself. Instead of weeping and wailing as was customary with the ancient Israelites, her reaction was calm and deliberate. As she had once refused to believe his birth was possible, so now she refused to accept his death as final. Instead she took him up to the prophet's room, and laid him on Elisha's bed. She summoned her husband asking for a servant and transportation to the "man of God." When questioned by her husband, she replied, "Everything's all right." This term translates one Hebrew word, shalom, meaning peace or wholeness. What an amazing response of faith! She believed that the God who had given her this child would surely restore him to her.

Elisha first attempted to heal the boy by sending his servant ahead to place his staff on the face of the child. The staff represented the instrument of power, but this was ineffective. The woman refused to leave

until Elisha himself agreed to go home with her.

THANKING GOD (2 KINGS 4:32-37)

When Elisha reached the room where the boy lay, he confirmed that he was dead, and directed his attention to the only one who could restore life. Elisha stretched himself out twice on the child. The Lord responded to the prayer and faith of his servant and life returned to the lifeless body. The boy was delivered alive to his mother who fell at the feet of Elisha in gratitude. When God repairs our crushed hopes, and even if He doesn't, the appropriate response is always gratitude and adoration. We have much to learn from this nameless Shunammite woman.

The birth of this child and his later restoration is not a blanket promise that God will always give us the desires of our heart, but God will always help us achieve the desires of His heart if we trust Him to accomplish His will.

Carraway is member of First Church, Wiggins.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

Pastor praises MBCB fund raising program

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

When newly-constituted Brandon Church in Brandon decided to take a leap of faith and build a comprehensive new church complex on Highway 80 east of Brandon, they knew it was going to cost a lot of money they didn't yet have in the bank. They also knew bringing in a reputable capital fund raising company was going to cost a lot of money.

That's when they turned to the Stewardship Department

as well — if not better," recalled Brandon Church Pastor Robert Jackson.

It was a smart move. The MBCB Stewardship Department helped the church raise over \$3.3 million for the new complex, which will occupy land worth more than one million dollars that had been previously purchased.

Jackson said his past experience with major capital fund raising campaigns leads him to believe the church could have easily spent a "ballpark figure" of

\$80,000-\$100,000 in consultant fees alone for the capital fund raising campaign. He said Brandon Church actually spent around \$2,000 by utilizing the MBCB Stewardship Department — and that included printing and a number of other incidental expenses.

Jackson commended MBCB Stewardship Director Jerry Mixon and Consultant Joel Haire. "Jerry provided experienced guidance, and Joel dedicated himself to ensuring the success of our fund raising campaign," he said.

Mixon said he is pleased the convention board can offer such a service at minimal cost to Mississippi Baptist churches, thanks to gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

"When churches need to raise a large sum of money to build a building, retire a debt, or purchase land, they often turn to fund raising campaigns," Mixon explained. "Some churches seek to use what is known in the



UP AND AWAY — Brandon Church members Milton Baxter (left) and son Benny release white doves at the end of the May 23 ground breaking service for Brandon Church. Immediately behind the Baxters, site preparation has already begun on the church's recently-acquired property along Highway 80 in east Brandon. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

business as professional fund raisers from the secular world. It should be noted that Mississippi Baptists have a professional capital fund raising division at their disposal in the MBCB Stewardship Department."

Mixon said the program has been in existence with modifications for over 35 years. "Some will remember it as the Together We Build program. Today it is a program that is professional in its approach, with emphasis on a spiritual journey for growth in giving."

"It is not just a fund raising campaign, but more," Mixon pointed out. "A trained specialist is sent to your church to organize and train eight key church leaders who have the ability to enlist a large number of people to perform specific tasks throughout the three

months of the campaign."

Prayer visits are key to the program, Mixon said. "A part of our organization and training is turning the campaign over to God. When God shows up in a campaign, there is no way to know what the people will give."

"Of course, every campaign is not as successful and generally this is because the church for whatever reason decides to cut part of the program or change some of it. When a church alters the program, they short-change the church in the amount of dollars that will be given," he added.

For more information on the programs offered by the MBCB Stewardship Department, contact Mixon at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3348. E-mail: jmixon@mbcb.org.

BREAKING GROUND — Members of the board of directors for Brandon Church turn over earth May 23 to symbolize the beginning of construction at the church's soon-to-be new home on Highway 80 east of Brandon. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), which can provide comparable fund raising advice and services at a fraction of the cost of the private companies.

"I said we don't need to spend a lot of money bringing in a consultant, when what we have at MBCB will do just

Bibliocipher

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WMF LYJEJ CJJUVFY XIFJ
FYV BVHQVOF CNL JQ
CXWVHFR, NIZ OJIFXIMV
FY FYVHVXI, YV WVXIA
IJF N QJHAVFQMC YVN -
HVH, WMF N ZJVH JQ
FYV LJHU, FYXE DNI
EYNCC WV WCVVEVZ XI
YXE ZVVZ.

GNDVE JIV: FLVIFR-QXKV

Clue: C = L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: James 4:7

Baseball team's biblical characters score big hit

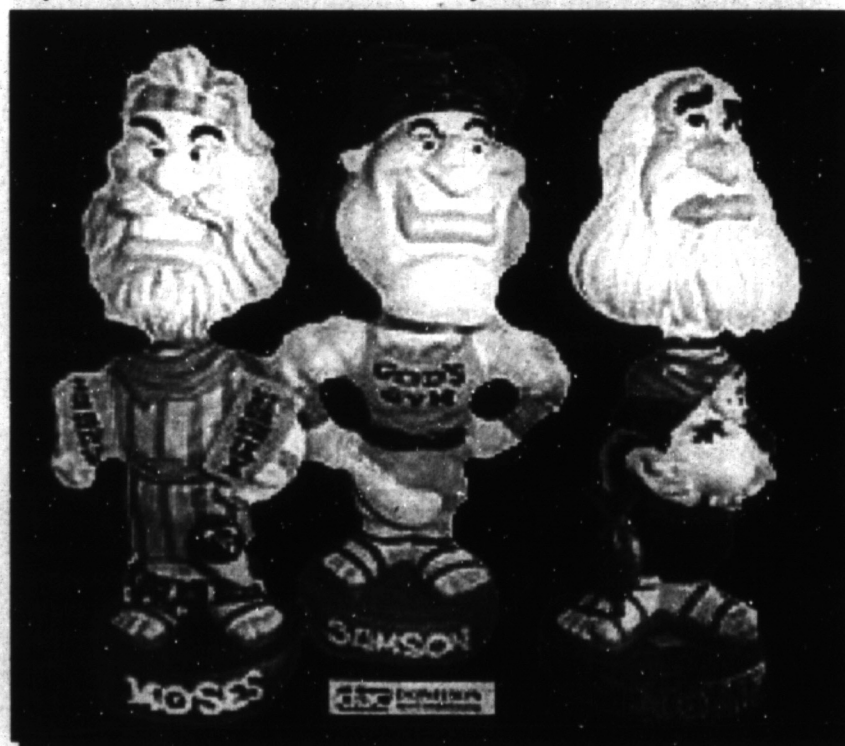
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The popular bobblehead dolls that have featured sports heroes are moving into the biblical realm with a minor league baseball team's giveaway of Old Testament heroes Moses, Samson, and Noah for a Faith Night series this season. The Nashville Sounds, AAA affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates, last year laid claim to the first Christian-based sales program in professional baseball in order to attract church groups to various games.

Donelson Air Conditioning, a Nashville-area company, is sponsoring the bobbleheads. "We saw the bobblehead promotion as a creative way to reach our target market of church leaders and members while at the same time supporting the Sounds in a worthwhile, family event," said Dean Fulton, general manager of Donelson Air Conditioning.

At the June 4 Faith Night, the first 2,000 fans to enter Greer Stadium in Nashville will receive a caricature-type representation of Moses carry-

ing the two tablets of the Ten Commandments. Fans at the July 30 Faith Night will receive

a bobblehead of the muscular Samson wearing a "God's Gym" T-shirt, while fans at the



BIBLICAL BOBBLEHEADS — The Nashville Sounds minor league baseball team is giving away biblical bobbleheads at games promoted to church groups. Fans have been collecting the Moses, Samson, and Noah figurines. (Photo courtesy of nashvillesounds.com)

Aug. 27 Faith Night will receive a Noah bobblehead holding a closed umbrella.

"The church groups are going crazy over these things," Brent High, the Sounds' church and youth programs director, said in a June 1 news release. "We've had some churches double the number of people they brought last year, and they attribute it to the bobbleheads."

Nearly 350 church groups attended Sounds games in Nashville last season, and the number is anticipated to increase to nearly 600 this year, according to the news release.

The seven planned Faith Nights this season are intended to draw families, church groups and others to the ballpark. The June 4 game will feature post-game fireworks and a pre-game concert by Denver & The Mile-High Orchestra, a big band-styled Christian music group. Other Faith Nights will feature concerts by Christian artists Natalie Grant, Plus One, Shaun Groves, Nate Sallie, Silers Bald, Across the Sky, and Todd Agnew.